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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft settlement

I am opposed to the settlement the Justice Department has negotiated with Microsoft. The settlement proposed by the nine dissenting states makes more sense. The DOJ's settlement does not do enough to insure that Microsoft does not further abuse its monopoly power. For example, the settlement now claims Microsoft does not have to afford certain protections to small developers unless they have been in business for a year, and have given out more than a million copies of its software. Whoever negotiated this has little knowledge about how the software industry works. In a year Microsoft could have already stomped out the competition. Such as a deal does not encourage competition, it hinders it drastically.

Furthermore, the proposed deal does not even require Microsoft to admit guilt, which makes it harder for companies like Netscape to collect damages resulting from Microsoft's illegal activities that brought it into court in the first place.

For some one such as myself who chooses to use alternative products such as the operating system put out by Apple Computer I personally am injured by Microsoft's practices because Apple is continuously threatened by Microsoft, which uses its monopoly power to get Apple to do things its way. Apple is afraid Microsoft will stop making Microsoft Office for it (which is is profitable for Microsoft) because Microsoft claims that it will stop making it. Apple then is forced to stop competing with Microsoft in certain areas, as no Microsoft Office would mean the death of Apple. Again this hurts competition. Worse it hurts me the consumer who likes to have a choice in the computer operating system market.

Microsoft shows no sign of letting up either, just look at its proposed settlement in being heard in Boston. Microsoft wants to punish itself by expanding its own market share at Apple's expense. How does this help competition? It does not.

I plead that the court will truly come up with a solution that sends a clear message to Microsoft that illegal competition is not tolerable.